



**27 years**  
**Development**  
**Action**

# **Cooperatives and the Social and Solidarity Economy”**

**UNDESA EGM on Cooperatives in Economic and Social Development: Recover better from the Covid 19 Pandemic**

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# Softer Capitalism?



- “Great Reset” by WEF and special cooperation of UN SG with WEF - to do what? Stakeholder vs Shareholder Capitalism? Social Economy- by whom? For whom? Charity or capitalism in new clothes/slogans?
- Good attempts have been made to tame Leviathan
  - A) United Nations Guiding Principles (Bus+HRs)
  - B) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
  - C) OECD Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)
  - D) Global Compact- sustainable principles (UNGC)
  - E) Economic, Social, Governance Investment (ESG)
- **HOWEVER: ALL NON-BINDING, VOLUNTARY, RISKY**  
(see dismissal of CEO of Danon company by old style activist shareholders- Friedman principle)

# Build Better Futures



- **Alternative: Cooperative & Social and Solidarity Economy”**

*SSE includes traditional forms of cooperatives and mutual associations, as well as women’s self-help groups, community forestry groups, social provisioning organizations or ‘proximity services’, fair trade organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprises, and community currency and alternative finance schemes. (UNTFSSSE)*

- **BUT: IF NOT ANCHORED IN LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND BASED ON SOUND ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICE- RISK OF DISSOLUTION/NOT SUSTAINABLE**

# **BEST ALTERNATIVE FUTURE: COOPERATIVES PROVIDED:**



- **FPRW- for members and non members**
- **No isomorphism (imitating private sector companies- efficiency gains but “loosing the cooperative soul”**
- **Control for “Principal Agent” risk in large cooperatives**
- **Save space for learning and help members mobilize imagination for adaptation to changing environment)**
- **Allow for new flexible membership- e.g. part time members e.g. ENSPIRAL in NZ**



COMMUNITY



WOMEN



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



LOCAL AUTHORITIES



NO

**Cooperatives and SSE are not represented at HLPF!!!  
MG Business & Industry is!  
and ICC has permanent observer status at UN GA**



EDUCATION AND ACADEMIA



WITH DISABILITIES



VOLUNTEERS



AGE



CHILDREN & YOUTH